

R. W. YANCEY, Editor.

THE PAN ELECTRIC.

It certainly comes with very bad grace from the New York Tribune to harp, as it continually does, on the Pan Electric Telephone matter, and professes to consider it a political scandal.

The Tribune was an ardent supporter of Blaine during the last campaign, and could see no evil in the Little Rock & Ft. Smith railroad transaction, in which the man from Maine was the principal actor. If the action of any of the public men connected with the Pan Electric matter be scandalous, then Blaine is a criminal that deserves to be clad in the stripes of a convict.

Nothing has so far been shown, nor we believe, can be shown, except that certain prominent men, including Senators and Representatives, took a number of shares in this company without paying a money consideration therefor. In fact, there does not appear to have been any real capital in the company, and their contributions to the expense of experiments and pushing its business, were as great as those of any other members. They, in fact, organized the company.

It is alleged that the stock was given them in consideration of their political influence, but there is not even an attempt to show that such influence has been exerted in its favor, or even that there was need of such influence. Attorney-General Garland may form a possible exception to this statement, made so by the suit against the Bell Telephone Company. But he was not a cabinet officer, nor could he or any one else have dreamed that he would be one when he became a stock holder in the Pan Company.

On the other hand, Blaine, while Speaker of the House, made a ruling by which his Little Rock & Ft. Smith railroad stock was given a boost to the detriment of the Government.

If the Tribune has such a nose for scandal as it is displaying in this Pan Electric Telephone matter, it is certainly peculiar that it failed to discover the short comings of Blaine. With such a light by which to judge its action, it becomes apparent that the attack it is now making emanates from partisan spite.

If there is any ground on which to suppose the prominent Democrats whom the New York World attacks in connection with the Pan Electric Telephone, guilty of crooked intentions, there are much better reasons for believing that the World has been induced to move in this matter by the money of the Bell Telephone Company. The Bell company is a rich corporation enjoying a fat monopoly that is threatened by the Pan Electric, and it looks like the New York World was lending itself to its use. On general principles we could much sooner believe the World corrupt than we could impute any looseness of morals to Harris, Atkins and other leading Democrats against whom its foul insinuations are aimed.

Messrs. Morrison and Breckenridge of the Sub-Committee of Ways and Means, reported to the full committee a joint resolution instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to call in and redeem \$10,000,000 worth of interest-bearing bonds monthly until the surplus in the Treasury shall be reduced to \$100,000,000, to be held for a green-back reserve. The resolution, it is said, will be adopted by the committee and reported to the House.

We don't understand how bonds not due can be called in. Certainly the holders will be loath to give them up at par value when they are selling for a handsome premium. If the scheme be practiced it is doubtful financial policy.

Gov. PROCTOR KNOTT sent a message to the Kentucky Legislature concerning the convict question, Monday, which shows that it is rather a perplexing problem. It seems that the convicts are all to be put back in the penitentiary; that there is no money in the State Treasury to feed and clothe them with, and under the constitution, no money can be borrowed for the purpose.

The Memphis Leger claims to have found a man who reads the Congressional Record regularly and consecutively through and through. Such a story is hard to believe, but the editor of the Leger offers to make affidavit to the fact.

SENATOR D. H. SMITH has introduced a bill into the Kentucky legislature to make gambling a felony. We hope the law will be passed and more effectively enforced than a similar one has been in Tennessee.

One thing that must be set down to the credit of the Pan Electric stockholders, is that their transactions have been open and above board. There has been no concealment by any of them that they held such stock.

DR. J. W. RODGERS.

Dr. J. W. Rodgers, of Washington, the father of the inventor of the Pan Electric Telephone, and the man who has engineered that enterprise is, we believe, a native of Haywood county, Tennessee. The late Dr. William Rodgers, a prominent physician of Memphis, was his brother. Dr. J. W. Rodgers spent the greater portion of his life as an Episcopal clergyman. Prior to the war he was rector of St. Thomas church in Somerville. After the surrender of the Confederate forces he spent some time in England and attended the Pan-Anglican council, an ecclesiastical body which assembled in London about that time. On his return to America he was imbued with extreme high church ideas and practiced a ritualism in the church he had charge of in Memphis that was beyond anything the Episcopalians on this side of the Atlantic were accustomed to. A quarrel between him and the bishop ensued and shortly afterwards he went over to the Catholic church.

Dr. Rodgers is a man of very genial and fascinating manners, he has a high degree of personal magnetism and a fine faculty for entertaining. In early life he married Miss Cornelia Harris, of Fayette County. His son J. Harris Rodgers the inventor, is something the rise of thirty years old.

THE GIST OF THE MATTER.

The New York World in its editorial comments on the Pan Electric matter said:

Senator Garland and his associates who accepted partnership in this Electric Telephone Company must have done so with the knowledge that they were expected to use their influence and votes in the Senate and the House of Representatives to promote the interests of the enterprise—with the knowledge, in fact, that through executive or legislative influence their stock might be made worth a fortune or be rendered wholly valueless.

It is the gist of the accusation and herein the World failed to make out its case.

Because these gentlemen accepted this stock it does not follow that they meant to trade official patronage for it, nor is it a natural sequence that they were expected to exert their political influence in its behalf because the stock was given them without a money consideration.

Undoubtedly the prestige of their names and their influence was a reason for interesting them in the enterprise, but that is a very different thing from seeking to corrupt them as office holders.

"The knowledge, in fact, that through executive or legislative influence, their stock might be made worth a fortune," could not on any reasonable grounds have deterred them from becoming the holders of such stock. Carrying political morality to this quixotic extent it might be argued that a man should decline an election to Congress if he supposed he should have an opportunity to sell his vote for a large amount during his term.

It cannot be made a crime for a member of Congress to use every legitimate means for making money. A simple holding of stock is nothing wrong and that is the head and front of the offending of these senators.

BURMAH.

A short time ago it was quietly announced that England had added Burmah to her eastern possessions. The acquisition was made after a short war in which a few soldiers were sacrificed and a little British gold expended.

The event created such little stir that the world scarcely comprehended what a vast addition was by this means made to Her Majesty's Eastern Empire.

Burmah has an area of 2,000,000 square miles and 800,000 population. It is one of the most fertile countries on the globe, producing cotton, grain and all kinds of tropical fruits, and its mountainous region abound in minerals and precious stones.

The country is almost eight times as big as Texas and nearly two-thirds as large as the whole United States. It was originally as large, but England has before lopped off some of its provinces.

Burmah has until now enjoyed a national independence dating back to 543 B. C. and in the last century it was considered the most powerful nation in South Eastern Asia.

Yet we read about the English acquisition as a most commonplace matter, and deem it nothing strange to hear the British speak of those Burmese who resist their usurpation as rebels.

JOHN SHERMAN's silver bill seems to have pleased nobody, and least of all the New York press. The Times pronounced it "a curious contrivance" and none of the other papers have anything good to say about it. Meeting with such disfavor from eastern sources would seem to argue it might be pleasing to the silver men of the West, but is condemned by them also. The fault of the bill is that it was intended to please everybody and it has met the usual fate of measures of that kind.

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EDITOR DOAK of the Memphis Avalanche, seems to have soured on sleigh riding and his last paper contained a number of paragraphs rather disposed to poke fun at that jolly sport. We quote the following as a sample: "Ariens Ward's substitute for a sleigh ride, which he said he preferred to the genuine, was a tub of cold water to stick your feet in and a rocking chair in the back yard. Doubtless to this should be added, as a substitute for a lovely girl cold as an icicle, the perusal of Tupper's Proverbial Philosophy. Between the sleigh ride and Mr. Ward's substitute give us the latter." The editor of the Avalanche should read Poe and work himself up to a proper appreciation of "the crystalline delight" that can be had out of a sleigh ride. His sentiment in this regard is vitiated and needs reforming.

ONE of our West Tennessee exchanges reports Congressman Glass as having written a letter to its editor, in which he said, "No bill suspending the coinage of silver can pass the present Congress. I will oppose any measure unfriendly to the silver interest." The congressman is doubtless correct in the premises he lays down—a counting of congressional noses has led other people to the same conclusion—but he chose an unlucky form of expression. It might lead somebody to believe he is conceited.

If it is altogether correct to say "it flew" or "it has blown," why can't we with equal propriety say "it snowed" or "it has snowed." The ways of the English language are inscrutable.

THE senators and other public men who are charged with crookedness in the Pan Electric telephone matter should demand a thorough investigation.

THE name of Lord Hartington is said to be conspicuous for its absence in the new ministry which Gladstone will form.

For their own glory and standing with posterity what a pity 'tis that the generals of the late war ever took to writing history.

THERE is a rumor to the effect that domestic afflictions will cause Secretary Bayard to resign his office.

THE Kentucky Legislature is troubled with the convict question.

Some Sensible Talk.

Memphis Ledger.

The Nashville papers, after a brief rest, have resumed a discussion of the momentous question: One or Two Conventions? When they get through perhaps the Democratic Executive Committee will consult the people and have something to say. The Union is for two conventions, one to nominate candidates for the Supreme Bench to be elected next August, and the other to nominate a candidate for Governor to be elected next November. This is in accordance with the usage of the party. The American has heretofore favored the holding of only one convention, and has sustained its side of the question with great ability. Since the new management took charge, however, the paper has not insisted on the change of custom, but seems to be ready to keep in line with precedents or to accept an innovation without being in the least disturbed.

This is sensible and philosophic, and will tend to allay the petty bickerings that have been going on, and to promote the harmony and unity of the Democratic party.

We are glad to be able to announce that there is a truce to all this factional warfare within the party. It has had an unnecessarily protracted life, caused by senseless, dictatorial agitation. The Ledger congratulates itself that it has dealt only with main issues and principles, and has let the side issues severely alone. And now at last, when it is evident that there is no great certain Democratic majority to boast of in the State, there are others who calmly conclude that there is nothing left to quarrel about. The Republicans are boasting that they can carry the State this year. An appeal has been made to the North for help in money and speakers and

such other influences as can be brought to bear in a political contest like this. It seems that Tennessee has been selected as the next battle ground in the solid South. The people are now warned in time. If they choose to go over to John Sherman and the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette and the bloody shirt in this late day, they can do so. If the Democrats desire to retain control of the State and to stand in line with the national administration, they will certainly stand together. "Many as the billows, but one as the sea," forgetting that there ever were any factional divisions, and determined to perpetuate home rule; honest government and the ascendancy of Jeffersonian principles.

Southern Progress.

The Baltimore Manufacturers' Record has published its annual review of the industrial growth of the South and the progress made in the development of the manufacturing and mining interests of this section during 1885, notwithstanding the general depression in business throughout the country. A noticeable feature is the wide diversity of new enterprises, which includes almost every industry known in the country. The amount of capital included in the capital stock of incorporated companies organized during the year and in enlarging and rebuilding those destroyed by fire, aggregates \$66,812,000, divided among fourteen Southern States as follows: Alabama, \$7,841,000; Arkansas, \$41,220,000; Florida, \$2,019,000; Georgia, \$2,500,000; Kentucky, \$18,804,200; Louisiana, \$2,118,500; Maryland, \$6,668,800; Mississippi, \$761,500; North Carolina, \$3,280,000; South Carolina, \$856,000; Tennessee, \$2,692,000; Texas, \$3,232,000; Virginia, \$3,314,000; West Virginia, \$12,056,000; total \$66,812,000. Summing up some of the statistics Southern progress since 1880, the Record shows that since then 10,400 miles have been added to the South's railroad mileage, the building of which, added to the investments in old roads and their improvement, foots up \$571,000,000, the actual cost of the railroads of the South and their equipment, according to statistics, being over \$1,250,000,000, against \$679,800,000 in 1880. The assessed value of property in the South has increased nearly \$1,000,000,000 since 1879.

"The Hot Headed Man."

To the Chronicle:

I see Mr. Ross Burne's statement in regard to the prominent citizen magician, I know the gentleman well, he is the "hot headed man," and there is no doubt that if he were turned loose with a few more expressions, this snow would melt in less time than it was falling. But this "hot headed man" is not up to business like a Florida gentleman, who is spending the winter here for his health. He says they would give anything for such a snow as this in his country—the orange region—that they would plow it under as they do their big fogs, as commercial fertilizer.



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